

High School Vault Burglarized

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SCHOOL VAULT BURGLARIZED—This cash box, held by Principal John K. Steinbaugh of Torrance High School, was looted of \$157.30 during the week-end. At left is Mrs. James A. Grant, secretary in the principal's office. Gate receipts from last Friday night's basketball game were in the cash box in the vault.

Three Are One

City's First Triplets Get Birthday Cake from Alma

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn L. Musso may not know how to play poker but they can tell you that in their family three of a kind is a full house. The Mussos, who live in an apartment at 2213 Cabrillo avenue, are the parents of Joe, Mark and Janet, the first set of triplets to be born in Torrance and who last week celebrated their first birthday.

Mrs. Alma Senulitz, who can bake a cake better than the ones that husbands are forever claiming their mothers used to bake, sent the triplets a gaily bedecked cake that weighed almost as much as one of the trio. Topped by an imitation candle taller by inches than the little ones, the cake was decorated with roses, the names of the triplets and other pastry thing-a-ma-bobs to delight the two boys and their sister.

Mrs. Musso had one big job of keeping 30 little fingers away from the two-layer cake while they had their picture taken.

Via Monte D'Oro Now Resurfaced

Resurfacing of Via Monte D'Oro, the principal street leading into the Hollywood Riviera section, was completed Wednesday by the Griffith Company.

Next street resurfacing project to be undertaken in the city by the Griffith Company, awarded the contract several weeks ago, is South Border avenue.

Semi-Permanent Type School Approved for Seaside Rancho Area

Semi-permanent elementary school buildings with 16 classrooms are to be erected at the Seaside Rancho school site, it was decided at a special meeting of the Torrance Board of Education.

The board also reaffirmed its decision on:

An 8-unit school for the new Watteria (or South Torrance) site, of similar type of construction. A kindergarten unit is included in these plans.

An eight-classroom unit with kindergarten and administrative units for the North Torrance site.

The board yielded from its previous stand against any but permanent type buildings after

Board Orders Special Count

To give school authorities a better idea of what to expect in future enrollment, the Board at its meeting Tuesday night authorized expenditure of \$75 to obtain information on the number of children between one and 20 years of age now living in Torrance. The information will be compiled from statistics gathered during the recent special city-wide census.

hearing from Superintendent J. H. Hull and Business Manager Emmet Ingram.

Ingram said he had conferred with Architect A. S. Nibecker Jr. of the Los Angeles Board of Education regarding the Los Angeles District's emergency housing program, and said sections of the Los Angeles district were once like Torrance.

"Los Angeles has 1000 classrooms unoccupied — because the permanent schools are not in the right place now due to the shift of population with the growth of the industrial area," Ingram said he learned.

"Los Angeles has moved 722 bungalows into various new areas to meet school needs."

At Tuesday night's meeting were a number of residents of Watteria and Seaside Ranchos who were given the assurance by the Board that everything possible was being done to provide those areas with schools at the earliest possible date.

An official from the Daniel, Mann and Johnson architects designing the new schools, told the group that 20 architects would be working on the Torrance schools.

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Electric Firm Officials Make Call at Plant

Top executives of the National Electric Products Company paid a visit to their plant on Lomita boulevard this week.

They were W. C. Robinson, president and F. J. Kennedy, vice president in charge of engineering.

The pair arrived Saturday from the company's executive offices in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Installation of a new crane-way covering has recently been completed at the plant.

Tidwell Hands Out Five-Day Strike Warning

First step to clear the legal path for calling a strike after next Tuesday of retail clerks in Torrance and Harbor area cities was taken this week by Haskell Tidwell, executive secretary of the Retail Clerks' Union No. 905, A.F.L.

Registered letters were received by employing merchants whose contracts with Tidwell's union expired Feb. 1, notifying them that Tidwell's union was invoking the provisions of the contract expiring Jan. 31, providing, "This agreement will remain in force, and the parties agree that there will be no strike, slowdown, work stoppage or lockout during this period of continued negotiations except upon five days written notice by the Employer to the Union or by the Union to the Employer or their representatives."

Tidwell's letter also warned, "We herein notify you that we reserve the right at the expiration of five (5) days to use any legal means to obtain a new legal contract with your firm."

Chief point of disagreement over renewal of the contract is reported to be Tidwell's insistence upon elimination of the 1948 contract's arbitration clause, in spite of the fact that just this past week President Truman in his report to Congress recommended the inclusion of a workable arbitration clause in all union contracts in an effort to promote peace and harmony between employers and employee groups.

The day before employing merchants received the notification from Tidwell, it is reported that members of the employer negotiation committee had met with Tidwell and a tentative agreement had been reached on the arbitration clause, which Tidwell was to have submitted to his union members. Another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning, (Friday) and it is hoped that a satisfactory solution of the problem can be reached.

It has been pointed out by those close to the picture that Tidwell's union contracts with the chain stores in this area contain an arbitration clause, and that these contracts run through 1949 and 1950. Smaller independent merchants contend that to deprive them of the same protection constitutes an unfair discrimination.

There is no dispute over wages and hours, according to reports of the negotiators.

Another 652 Phones Added Here in 1948

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company increased the number of telephones in Southern California by more than 130,000 during the year to raise the total number of Southern telephones served to 1,485,000.

In the Torrance exchange 652 telephones were added in 1948 to increase to 4942 the number in service here, according to Manager A. B. Smith of the Torrance office. Considerable progress has been made in reducing the number of applications being held for lack of facilities," Smith said. "The postwar peak of held orders was 150,000 in 1947.

Promotions Given Six by Police Chief

A number of promotions in the Torrance Police Department last week, has six members of the force joining to whistle a tune, "Bars and Stripes Forever."

Exchanging his three stripes as a sergeant for the parallel bars of a captain was Willard H. Haslam.

The wives of Karl H. Friberg, A. S. Thompson and Swayne Johnson were busy this week with needle and thread sewing on the newly won stripes of sergeant to the sleeves of their promoted husbands.

Capt. Ernest Ashton and Sgt. Percy Bennett were whistling "Them Days Are Gone Forever" as they donned their blue uniforms in moth balls and donned plain clothes as the "Uniform of the Day" for their new jobs as investigators.

Flower Loss Half Million, Kiwanis Told

Charles Yerka, senior agricultural commissioner for Los Angeles county, addressed the members of the Torrance Kiwanis Club Monday night and brought an authentic picture of local and county crop damage due to the recent "unusual" California weather.

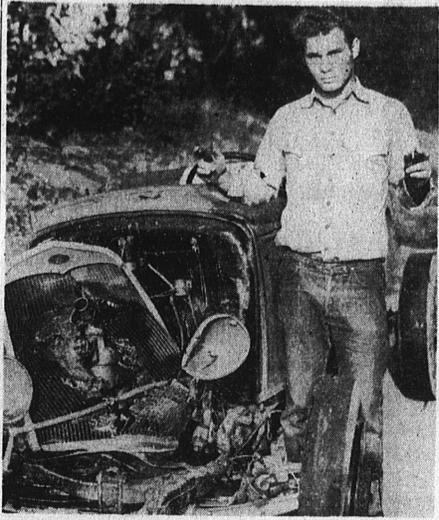
Within the county 59,400 acres are devoted to raising citrus fruits and avocados, the speaker said. The following losses were reported: naval oranges 22 percent or 615,000 boxes, Valencia oranges 27 percent or 1,476,000 boxes, lemons 48 percent or 1,012,000 boxes, and avocados 38 percent or 2,041,000 pounds.

In the cut flower industry, which suffered an 80 percent loss of flowers in the ground, the Torrance and Redondo areas sustained a \$125,000 loss. The total estimated loss to flowers was given as one half million dollars.

An interesting feature of the program was the presentation of President Howard Wood with an orchid lei by little Miss Yolanda Frances, Yolanda, a student of Betty Thomas, a young "Sweet Lillian" and was dressed in island style. The lei was given by Homer Morgan, who is vacationing in the Hawaiian islands. It was flown by air express to Torrance for the presentation.

CUBS GET SUPPLIES

Through the efforts of Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance police department and Leland Franz, area Boy Scout commissioner, a check to cover supplies needed by Cub Scout Troop 228-C was turned over this week to the Methodist church.



THROWN FOR LOSS—Neither Buddy Light, Tartar football star, nor his "hot-rod" look too happy after a gasoline tank truck threw a full body block into the cut-down roadster. After the scrimmage with the tanker, Light stepped from the pile-up and gave the sign of good luck—he was unhurt. (Herald Photo).

Varsity Gridder Miraculously Escapes in Car-Truck Crash

Diminutive George Albert "Buddy" Light, stellar backfield man on the Torrance High School varsity squad last fall, tackled one Monday morning a little bit bigger than he was—as was his custom on the gridiron—and came out second best—not his usual custom.

The 18-year-old youth, driving his cut-down hotrod, turned into the path of a tank truck at an entrance to the high school on Madrid avenue. After doing a flat spin the youth climbed from his car without injury although his "hot-rod" was considerably "cooled" by the impact with the truck.

Police Sergeant Bill Evans said the truck was being driven by Robert Ragsdale, 24, of Downey, employed by an oil distributing firm owned by Charles Ragsdale and Calvin Newell with offices at 2319 Arlington avenue. The truck swerved into the steel fence surrounding the school plant but Ragsdale also escaped without injury.

"Buddy" was penalized by the Torrance police department for turning without clearance. He gave his address as 1618 West 218th street.

More Housing

New Subdivisions Planned in 'Riviera' and North Torrance

Reports were current this week that approximately 300 lots in the Hollywood Riviera section lying between Calle Mayor and the existing development will be improved with dwellings and offered for sale this summer.

Preliminary inquiries about building plans already have been made at the Torrance City Hall. Portionality of new elementary schools to unimproved areas is expected to stimulate home-building in many sections of the city, according to school officials.

Another new subdivision is in the "possibility" stage in Torrance, at 182nd and Hawthorne boulevard, it was disclosed this week.

ADVANCE GIFTS YIELD TENTH OF 'Y' BUDGET

The first report meeting of workers in the Advance Gift Division of the Torrance YMCA current support fund campaign will be held this afternoon at the public library.

W. T. Tillotson, chairman, announced that one-tenth of the \$11,340 local goal has been reported since the kick-off last Thursday.

All funds raised in the current campaign will be used in Torrance for YMCA programs, which includes boys' clubs, athletic activities, special interest groups, and a variety

2-Year-Old Boy Hurt in Auto Crash

Two-year-old Donald Quinn was treated at Harbor General Hospital Sunday night following an accident at Hawthorne and Del Amo boulevards.

The child was a passenger in a car being driven by Vernon Reed Quinn, 28, of 4030 Del Amo boulevard, according to police reports. Police said the Quinn auto was involved in a crash with another car being driven by Trinidad Vega of Los Angeles who was driving without lights.

The baby was taken to the hospital by R. N. De Sorda of 3731 Garnet street.

CITY HIT BY SIX THEFTS, BURGLARIES

Three burglaries and three thefts, in which business offices were entered and ransacked, put Torrance police investigators on the "special duty" list this week in an effort to track down evidence that will lead to arrests.

Heading the list was burglary of the Torrance High School vault, where \$157.30 was taken from the cash box sometime over the weekend, according to Police Chief John Stroth.

Since no damage was done to the safe it was believed that a person or persons having knowledge of the combination made the theft of the money which included gate receipts from a basketball game Friday night.

Entrance to the building was believed to have been made through the use of keys as no visible evidence was discovered as how the thief gained access to the safe since it was guarded by two locked doors.

Only five persons have knowledge of the combination, Stroth said, although the combination has not been changed since the building was under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles system. Although the vault contained other valuables nothing else was reported missing.

In a series of other burglaries during the weekend a number of small business places were robbed of varying amounts of cash, according to the chief of police.

Stroth said he believed the burglaries may have been committed by the same person, as the "modus operandi" was the same in each case.

He said he believed the high school job was not committed by the same person as the other robberies.

A check-writing machine was the only article believed to have been stolen by someone who broke into the Plasterk Company of America's office at 2140 Cabrillo avenue, during the week end, according to H. L. Perkins, field engineer.

Perkins stated that he believed the machine was stolen to make it appear that the place had been burglarized whereas the real purpose behind the nocturnal visit was to obtain trade secrets from the company's files.

W. H. Tolson, former Mayor of Torrance, reported to police during the week end that his real estate office at 1920 Carson street had been broken into and ransacked but that a cursory examination revealed nothing missing.

A foot pad—possibly one with troubled feet—hid \$25 worth of bunion pads, corn pads, and shoe polish from a truck belonging to Melcher C. Roven, 264 Calle De Andelucia last week end, according to a report filed with the Torrance Police Department on Monday.

Gaining entrance by breaking a window, thieves stole \$18 in silver from the cash drawer of the Hobby Shop, 1221 El Prado, last Saturday night according to John Lenton of the El Prado Apartments who called police after discovering the broken window.

Emmett Barrett, 1401 West 220th street, reported the theft of a car radio, the heater and four hub caps from his automobile while it was parked on Border avenue a half block north of Carson street last week, in a report filed with Torrance police. Value of the items was \$112.

Capt. Winters Hurt on Call

Fire Captain J. R. Winters is recovering at his home at 1204 El Prado from a knee injury sustained last Monday morning when his platoon answered an alarm at the General Petroleum Tank farm on Crenshaw boulevard.



ONE FOR ALL—Joe, Mark, and Janet Musso, Torrance's first set of triplets, celebrate their first birthday with triple-sized cake from Alma's Bakery and that candle isn't small either. (Herald Photo).

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